

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to higher education; requiring the
3 boards of trustees of the University of Florida and
4 Florida Polytechnic University to submit a merger
5 application to a specified entity; providing for the
6 transfer of the Florida Polytechnic University to the
7 University of Florida; requiring Florida Polytechnic
8 University to take specified actions to obtain
9 consents for the transfer of a specified educational
10 broadband service station license; requiring Florida
11 Polytechnic University to assign the license for such
12 service station to the University of Florida;
13 providing duties and responsibilities of the
14 University of Florida; requiring the boards of
15 trustees of the University of Florida and New College
16 of Florida to submit a merger application to a
17 specified entity; providing for the transfer of New
18 College of Florida to the University of Florida;
19 requiring the tuition and fees for Florida Polytechnic
20 University and New College of Florida to remain in
21 place for a specified period; providing immunity;
22 amending s. 1004.32, F.S.; providing for the
23 contingent future repeal of specified provisions
24 relating to New College of Florida; amending ss.
25 1004.345 and 1004.3451, F.S.; providing for the

26 contingent future repeal of specified provisions
 27 relating to Florida Polytechnic University; amending
 28 s. 1009.534, F.S.; authorizing Florida Academic
 29 Scholars to receive a stipend, as provided in the
 30 General Appropriations Act, for specified educational
 31 expenses; amending s. 1009.535, F.S.; revising the
 32 amount of an award certain Florida Medallion Scholars
 33 may receive under certain circumstances; providing
 34 effective dates.

35

36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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38 Section 1. The boards of trustees of the University of
 39 Florida and Florida Polytechnic University shall submit to the
 40 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
 41 and Schools an application for merger. Upon approval by the
 42 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
 43 and Schools of the application for merger, the following
 44 transfers shall be made:

45 (1) All real and personal property, licenses and
 46 associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended balances,
 47 appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually agreed-upon
 48 obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of the Florida
 49 Polytechnic University shall be transferred to the University of
 50 Florida.

51 (2) All Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research
52 Institute programs, functions, offices, records, faculty
53 positions, and staff positions of the Florida Polytechnic
54 University shall be transferred to the University of Florida.

55 Section 2. Upon approval by the Commission on Colleges of
56 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools of the
57 application for merger, Florida Polytechnic University shall
58 take appropriate action to obtain all consents required by the
59 Federal Communications Commission and third parties before
60 assigning the educational broadband service station license that
61 has a Federal Communications Commission-issued reference point
62 in Polk County to the University of Florida. Upon obtaining such
63 consents, and upon the approval of the Federal Communications
64 Commission, Florida Polytechnic University shall assign the
65 license, including the excess capacity lease agreement for the
66 license, to the University of Florida, which shall assume the
67 benefits, obligations, and liabilities as the successor in
68 interest, including all regulatory and contractual
69 responsibilities. This section is contingent upon the approval
70 of the assignment of the lease by the Federal Communications
71 Commission.

72 Section 3. The boards of trustees of the University of
73 Florida and New College of Florida shall submit to the
74 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
75 and Schools an application for merger. Upon approval by the

76 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
 77 and Schools of the merger, all real and personal property,
 78 licenses and associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended
 79 balances, appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually
 80 agreed-upon obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of
 81 New College of Florida shall be transferred to the University of
 82 Florida.

83 Section 4. The tuition and fees established by the Board
 84 of Governors for Florida Polytechnic University and New College
 85 of Florida shall remain in place for undergraduate and graduate
 86 students of Florida Polytechnic University and New College of
 87 Florida, respectively, until such students graduate.

88 Section 5. The boards of trustees of the University of
 89 Florida, Florida Polytechnic University, and New College of
 90 Florida and their respective officers, trustees, employees,
 91 attorneys, and agents, are immune from all civil liability
 92 pertaining to or arising from compliance with this act,
 93 including the transfers required in sections 1., 2., and 3. of
 94 this act.

95 Section 6. Subsection (5) is added to section 1004.32,
 96 Florida Statutes, to read:

97 1004.32 New College of Florida.—

98 (5) This section shall stand repealed upon approval by the
 99 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
 100 and Schools of the merger of the University of Florida and New

101 College of Florida.

102 Section 7. Subsection (4) is added to section 1004.345,
103 Florida Statutes, to read:

104 1004.345 The Florida Polytechnic University.—

105 (4) This section shall stand repealed upon approval by the
106 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges
107 and Schools of the merger of the University of Florida and
108 Florida Polytechnic University.

109 Section 8. Section 1004.3451, Florida Statutes, is amended
110 to read:

111 1004.3451 Direct-support organization for Florida
112 Polytechnic University.—In accordance with s. 1004.28 and the
113 regulations of the Board of Governors, the Board of Trustees of
114 the Florida Polytechnic University may certify a direct-support
115 organization to serve the Florida Polytechnic University. Upon
116 approval by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern
117 Association of Colleges and Schools of the application for
118 merger, the Board of Trustees of the Florida Polytechnic
119 University of South Florida, in conjunction with the University
120 of ~~South~~ Florida Foundation, shall develop and implement a plan
121 to transfer, after obtaining consent from the appropriate
122 donors, assets derived from donations intended for the
123 enhancement of the ~~University of South~~ Florida Polytechnic
124 campus to the University of Florida Foundation. This section
125 shall stand repealed upon approval by the Commission on Colleges

126 | of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools of the
 127 | merger of the University of Florida and Florida Polytechnic
 128 | University ~~new direct-support organization serving the Florida~~
 129 | ~~Polytechnic University.~~

130 | Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 1009.534, Florida
 131 | Statutes, is amended to read:

132 | 1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

133 | (2) A Florida Academic Scholar who is enrolled in a
 134 | certificate, diploma, associate, or baccalaureate degree program
 135 | at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
 136 | eligible, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, for an award
 137 | equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and
 138 | fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);
 139 | 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-
 140 | (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, and is eligible for an
 141 | additional stipend ~~\$300 each fall and spring academic semester~~
 142 | ~~or the equivalent~~ for textbooks, to assist with the payment of
 143 | educational expenses as funds are specifically appropriated in
 144 | the General Appropriations Act.

145 | Section 10. Effective July 1, 2021, subsection (3) of
 146 | section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection
 147 | (5), subsection (2) is amended, and a new subsection (3) and
 148 | subsection (4) are added to that section, to read:

149 | 1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

150 | (2) A Florida Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in a

151 certificate, diploma, ~~associate~~, or baccalaureate degree program
152 at a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is
153 eligible, beginning in the fall 2018 semester, for an award
154 equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and
155 fees established under ss. 1009.22(3), (5), (6), and (7);
156 1009.23(3), (4), (7), (8), (10), and (11); and 1009.24(4), (7)-
157 (13), (14)(r), and (16), as applicable, to assist with the
158 payment of educational expenses.

159 (3) (a) Beginning with students initially eligible for an
160 award in the fall 2021 semester and thereafter, a Florida
161 Medallion Scholar who is enrolled in an associate degree program
162 at a Florida College System institution is eligible for an award
163 equal to the amount necessary to pay 100 percent of tuition and
164 fees listed under subsection (2).

165 (b) Upon completion of his or her associate degree at a
166 Florida College System institution, the student may transfer to
167 a state university or other eligible public or nonpublic
168 postsecondary education institution or remain at the Florida
169 College System institution and enroll in a baccalaureate degree
170 program to continue receiving his or her award.

171 (4) If a Florida Medallion Scholar under subsection (3)
172 earns an associate degree from a Florida College System
173 institution with:

174 (a) A cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a
175 4.0 scale, he or she is eligible for an award equal to the

176 amount necessary to pay 100 percent of the tuition and fees
177 listed under subsection (2) upon enrolling in a baccalaureate
178 degree program at an eligible public or nonpublic postsecondary
179 education institution.

180 (b) A cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher on
181 a 4.0 scale, but below a 3.5, he or she is eligible for an award
182 equal to the amount necessary to pay 75 percent of tuition and
183 fees listed under subsection (2) upon enrolling in a
184 baccalaureate degree program at an eligible public or nonpublic
185 postsecondary education institution.

186 Section 11. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
187 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
188 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
189 2020.